

Group Home Task Force Meeting
Friday, August 22, 2008
NOTES

Attendance:

Task Force Members:

Kathleen Aaron
Sheryl Brissett- Chapman
Sec. DeVore
Barbara DiPietro
Sec. Donald
Del. Lafferty

Karyn Lynch
Abbie Riopelle-Flanagan
Greg Shupe
Steve Sorin
Shelley Tinney

Guests:

Bill Lee, DHR
Adele Black, DHR
Clarke Williams, DBM
Beth Blauer, DJS
Jodi King, MSDE
Robyn Elliott, MACS
Mimi Stearman, Koba Institute

Ann Ciekot, NASW and MAYSB
Muriel Hesler, Mont. Co. DHHS
Jim McComb, MARFY
Kevin Keegan, DHR
Brian Shepter, Harris Jones LLC
Steffi Benjamin, NCCF

1. Welcome and Introductions: Sec. Donald

2. Approval of July 28, 2008 meeting minutes

Sec. Devore made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 26 meeting and was seconded by **Steve Sorin**. Motion carried.

3. Report on progress on SB 782/Statement of Need: Shelley Tinney

Ms. Tinney reported that the RDLC with the addition of AAGs from DHR, DJS and GOC met to begin work on the regulations and methodology to determine need. That group plans to have a draft ready to present to CCRT for approval on 9/15. The RDLC will meet again on 9/15 to incorporate any changes required by the CCRT before sending to the Children's Cabinet. If the CC approves the regs on Sept 25, they will be submitted to AELR. The AELR process takes a minimum of 97 days, so the regs could conceivably be implemented around 2/1/09. The implementation of the law, however, is not contingent on the promulgation of the regs. The RDLC will work on creating the methodology for determining need while the regs are in the AELR process. Expansions and relocations are included in the legislation License renewals this will be discussed with AAGs.

4. Report on progress on SB742/Bill of Rights: Sec. DeVore

Sec. DeVore reported that this workgroup had one meeting, the next meeting is scheduled for 8/27. A literature search on children's bill of rights found some

interesting things around the country. Texas and Oklahoma, especially, have comprehensive bills of rights. The workgroup created categories of rights. There is already a bill of rights which the committee used as guide. There was a significant amount of discussion about sexual identity and expression. That issue has not been resolved, **Karyn Lynch** reported that California and Texas have progressive policies. **Jim McComb** warned that we have to protect not only their rights but their safety as well. We need to consider how those rights are managed. **Sec. Devore** said we need to make sure that what is created can be implemented. Another issue is how this will be communicated to kids. **Sec. Donald** asked if the bill of rights aligns with the legislation and are we including youth. **Jessica Rae** is meeting with youth. **Sheryl Brissett-Chapman** stated that we need to develop balance between rights and responsibilities

5. Report on progress of report card workgroup: Sheryl Brissett-Chapman
This workgroup held its first meeting on 8/6. They feel they need to include youth and line staff. They discussed the task, reviewed New York and DC score cards, did a literature search (handout) which resulted in widely divergent views of the efficacy of group home care. They also looked at other relevant state models, CSOMS, the certification process and info sharing barriers. The workgroup expects to be complete their work by 11/1. **Sec. Donald** asked if they looked at template that Carmen created in terms of regulatory compliance. This work may have to be done in phases and we have just started collecting data for outcomes. **Sec. DeVore** expects the group to start with the DHR template as floor. At the local level determination of whether a program is good is based on relationships and anecdotal information, report cards would make it more objective **Sheryl Brissett Chapman** suggested we look at COMAR and contractual obligations to decide what should be made public. **Sec. Donald** said perhaps what the agencies use and what is the shared with public may be two different things. **Sheryl Brissett Chapman** thinks the report card should be about performance indicators around care and services for youth, not administrative items. **Sec. Donald** said perhaps there should be a weighting system. **Del. Lafferty** asked what exactly the report card would be if not compliance issues. **Sec. Donald** stated it would be objective measures on performance to inform contracting decisions, placement decisions and to have public accountability. **Sheryl Brissett Chapman** said it sounds more like the nursing home model; a hybrid between compliance and outcomes. The licensing monitors would be responsible for completing the template.

Adjournment